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# Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

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## UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

### *Yellow fever reported at Ocean Springs, Miss.*

Owing to reported information of an epidemic of fever at Ocean Springs, Miss., about the 20th of August last, members of the State board of health of Louisiana determined to visit Ocean Springs and investigate the disease in conjunction with a member of the Mississippi State board of health. After a thorough investigation, there having been reported some 400 cases, the following report was made:

“OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., *August 23, 1897.*

“Dr. S. R. OLLIPHANT,

“*President Board of Health, State of Louisiana:*

“DEAR SIR: The undersigned, having been requested to investigate an epidemic of fever prevailing at this place, would report as follows:

“In company with Drs. J. H. Bemis and O. L. Bailey, attending physicians, we visited and carefully examined 11 cases of the prevailing disease, of which we are informed there have been during the past six or seven weeks over 400 cases, none fatal, except 2 or 3, complicated with preexisting organic troubles.

“After careful inspection and examination of the aforesaid cases, which correspond in clinical history with existing cases and cases which have previously occurred, we are positive in our opinion that the disease is ‘dengue,’ and that in no case, either of those seen by us or in cases whose history has been obtained from the attending physicians,

is there, or has there been, any symptoms which would lead to even a suspicion of more serious disease.

"LUCIEN F. SALOMON, M. D.,

"O. CZARNOWSKI, M. D.,

*"Of the Board of Experts.*

"G. FARRAR PATTON, M. D.,

*"Secretary Louisiana State Board of Health.*

"H. H. HARALSON, M. D.,

*"Member of the Mississippi State Board of Health.*

"We concur in the above diagnosis of the disease prevailing at Ocean Springs.

"O. L. BAILEY, M. D.,

"J. H. BEMIS, M. D.,

*"Attending Physicians."*

On the 3d instant Passed Assistant Surgeon Wasdin telegraphed that the situation at Ocean Springs needed investigation, and requested and received permission to accept the invitation to proceed there with members of the Mobile board of health. On the 5th he reported the history of five or six hundred cases of disease, 5 of which he examined and reported endemic infection spreading by carriage, mostly whites, nonparoxysmal, disproportion in pulse, prostration. He insisted on and made a first necropsy of an adult sixty years of age. The matter was taken under advisement. Dr. Olliphant, President of the board of health of Louisiana, Dr. Haralson, of the Mississippi State board, and Dr. Saunders, of the Alabama State board, were expected later. The second necropsy was made by Dr. Wasdin, in which he stated that his diagnosis of yellow fever was confirmed and acquiesced in by the representatives of the Mobile, and Mississippi and Louisiana boards of health. He stated that the town was nearly depopulated. Upon this information Dr. John Guit  ras, formerly an officer of the Marine-Hospital Service, was directed to proceed immediately to Ocean Springs and Surgeons Murray and Carter were also directed to proceed to that place.

The governor of Mississippi, the health officer of Biloxi, and the president of the board of health of Louisiana were each tendered the aid of the Government in preventing the spread of the disease, and copies of the interstate quarantine regulations forwarded to each. Mail matter was ordered to be disinfected. Dr. Guit  ras, having been appointed an acting assistant surgeon, reported his arrival at Ocean Springs on the morning of the 8th, stating that he had examined 23 cases of dengue, and held in reserve his opinion as to 3 cases in doubt. Surgeon Murray reported his arrival on the 8th instant, and had arranged with Dr. Gant for establishing a camp near Ocean Springs, the State cordon of 25 posts having already been established in accordance with the interstate quarantine regulations. One case from Biloxi died in New Orleans.

Reported by the board of health after post mortem to be yellow fever. No subsequent cases in the city to September 9.

The following telegrams were received :

OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., *September 8, 1897.*

Have seen to-day 25 cases of dengue. Will hold opinion about 3 other. There are 38 sick in town. Three new cases.

GUITÉRAS.

OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., *September 9, 1897.*

Third autopsy held by Wasdin. Diagnosis of yellow fever consented to by Guitéras, Carter, Gant, and Manimaus. I go to Biloxi. Above was one of suspicious cases seen by Guitéras yesterday.

MURRAY.

*One case of smallpox in New Orleans.*

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *September 8, 1897.*

Negro from Montgomery developed varioloid in marine hospital to-day. Sent to pesthouse. Full precautions taken.

NORMAN,  
*Assistant Surgeon.*

*Smallpox in Birmingham.*

The following daily telegrams from County Health Officer J. W. Barclay give the progress of smallpox :

September 2: No cases to-day. \* \* \* September 3: Three cases (colored) in city; 2 cases (colored) in county; Camp Detention, 1. September 4: No cases in city or county; 1 case (colored) from Camp Detention. September 5: Cases in city, 3; county, 1; all colored; very mild. September 6: No new cases to-day. September 7: One case in city; 1 in county (colored), very mild. September 8: No cases to-day.